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| 10/840,110 | 05/05/2004 | Martin Weel | 1116-065 | 7277 |
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| DUONG, OANH L | | | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/840,110

Applicant(s)

WEEL, MARTIN

Examiner

OANH DUONG

Art Unit

2455

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/24/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 61-64, 66-70 and 72-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 61-64, 66-70 and 72-92 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/24/2008.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application.
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 61-64, 66-70, 72-92 are presented for examination.
Claims 1-60, 65, 71, and 93-108 are presented for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/24/2008 has been entered.

Drawings Objection

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature "select a matching user profile from the plurality of user profiles" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure

is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 61 are 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The feature "select a matching user profile from the plurality of user profiles" is not fully supported by Applicant's specification. Examiner respectfully requests applicant to specifically point out where in Applicant's specification supports the aforementioned feature. For purpose of examination,

examiner has interpreted the aforementioned feature as "finding at least one other person with similar tastes" as defined in Applicant's specification in page 10 paragraph [0054]).

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 61 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The statement "effecting selection" and "effecting delivery" seem indefinite because it is not known what effects selection and delivery as claimed.

8. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

9. Claims 61-64, 66-70, 75, 77-81, 85, 87-90, and 92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chislenko et al. ("Chislenko"), US 6,041,311, in view of Chang, Us 2002/0168938 A1..

Regarding claim 61, Chislenko teaches a method comprising:

comparing each of a plurality of user profiles with a target user profile of a first user associated with a media player device (i.e., *"comparing that user's profile with the profile of every other user of the system"*, col. 5 lines 51-55);

selecting a matching user profile from the plurality of user profiles (read as finding at least one other person with similar tastes) (i.e., *"similarity factors are used to select a plurality of users that have a high degree of correlation to a user"*, col. 8 lines 1-2);

effect selection of a playlist (i.e., *"The neighboring users are selected based on the similarity factors (step 106). The neighboring users are weighted, and recommendations for items are arrived"*, col. 11 lines 9-34); and

effecting delivery of a playlist to the media player device (i.e., to recommend/deliver (music) items/playlist to a user, col. 19 lines 41-42).

Chislenko does not explicitly teach a playlist of a matching user associated with the matching user profile.

Chang teaches system and method wherein coordinated and synchronized music playback among peer listeners is achieved. Chang teaches communicate a playlist of a matching user associated with the matching user profile (i.e., *"the local apparatus sends its own profile, which can be a list of song, to the remote party"*, page 2 paragraphs [0021] and [0024]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement Chislenko's playlist as a playlist of a matching user associated with the matching user profile as taught by Chang. One would be motivated

to do so to synchronize song playback between two or more users who wish to share mutual music listening (Chang, page 1 paragraph [0007]).

Regarding claim 78, Chislenko teaches a media player device comprising:
a communication interface communicatively coupling the media player device to a network (col. Fig. 4); and

a control system associated with the communication interface and adapted to:

compare each of a plurality of user profiles with a target user profile of a first user associated with a media player device (*i.e.*, “*comparing that user’s profile with the profile of every other user of the system*”, col. 5 lines 51-55);

selecting a matching user profile from the plurality of user profiles (read as finding at least one other person with similar tastes) (*i.e.*, “*similarity factors are used to select a plurality of users that have a high degree of correlation to a user*”, col. 8 lines 1-2); and

effect delivery of a playlist from a server storing the playlist to the media player device (*i.e.*, to recommend/deliver (music) items/playlist to a user, col. 19 lines 41-42).

Chislenko does not explicitly teach a playlist of a matching user associated with the matching user profile; and play at a least a portion of a song identified on the playlist.

Chang teaches system and method wherein coordinated and synchronized music playback among peer listeners is achieved. Chang teaches delivery of a playlist of a matching user associated with the matching user profile to the media player device

(i.e., *the local apparatus sends its own profile, which can be a list of songs, to the remote party, page 2 paragraphs [0021] and [0024]*); and play at a least a portion of a song identified on the playlist (i.e., *play the selected song, page 2 paragraph [0024]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement Chislenko's playlist as a playlist of a matching user associated with the matching user profile; and play at a least a portion of a song identified on the playlist as taught by Chang. One would be motivated to do so to synchronize song playback between two or more users who wish to share mutual music listening (Chang, page 1 paragraph [0007]).

Regarding claim 89, Chislenko teaches a server comprising:

a communication interface communicatively coupling the media player device to a network (col. Fig. 4); and

a control system associated with the communication interface and adapted to:

store a plurality of playlists each associated with one of a plurality of users (i.e., *item profiles are stored, col. 19 lines 8-15*)

compare each of a plurality of user profiles with a target user profile of a first user associated with a media player device (i.e., *"comparing that user's profile with the profile of every other user of the system", col. 5 lines 51-55*);

selecting a matching user profile from the plurality of user profiles (read as finding at least one other person with similar tastes) (i.e., *"similarity factors are used to select a plurality of users that have a high degree of correlation to a*

user", col. 8 lines 1-2), the matching user profile associated with a second user from a plurality of users (i.e., col. 5 lines 54-55);

effect selection of a playlist from the plurality of playlists for delivery to the media player device (i.e., "The neighboring users are selected based on the similarity factors (step 106). The neighboring users are weighted, and recommendations for items are arrived", col. 11 lines 9-34); and

communicate the playlist to the media device (i.e., to recommend/deliver (music) items/playlist to a user, col. 19 lines 41-42).

Chislenko does not explicitly teach playlist of the second user.

Chang teaches system and method wherein coordinated and synchronized music playback among peer listeners is achieved. Chang teaches communicate playlist of second user to the media device (*i.e., the local apparatus sends its own profile, which can be a list of song, to the remote party", page 2 paragraphs [0021] and [0024]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement Chislenko's playlist as playlist of second user as taught by Chang. One would be motivated to do so to synchronize song playback between two or more users who wish to share mutual music listening (Chang, page 1 paragraph [0007]).

Regarding claims 62, 79, and 90, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 61 wherein the matching user profile is one of the plurality of user profiles most similar to the target user profile (i.e., col. 11 lines 9-24).

Regarding claims 63 and 88, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 61 wherein a plurality of playlists including the playlist are stored by at least one server, each of the plurality of playlists is a playlist of one of a plurality of users including the matching user, and each of the plurality of users is associated with one of the plurality of user profiles (i.e., col. 11 lines 25-29).

Regarding claim 64, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 63 wherein the step of comparing is performed by the at least one server storing the plurality of playlists (col. 19 line 40-col. 20 line 29).

Regarding claim 66, Chislenko-Chang teaches the method of claim 63 wherein the step of comparing is performed by the media player device (i.e., Chang, page 2 paragraph [0021]).

Regarding claim 67, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 66 further comprising requesting delivery of the playlist from the at least one server to the media player device (col. 21 lines 1-5).

Regarding claims 68 and 80, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 63 wherein the at least one server comprises central server (Fig. 4, col. 20 lines 28-29).

Regarding claims 69 and 81, Chislenko-Chang teaches the method of claim 63 wherein the at least one server comprises a plurality of peer media player devices forming a Peer-to-Peer (P2P) network (i.e., Chang, page 1 paragraph [0008]).

Regarding claim 70, Chislenko-Chang teaches the method of claim 69 wherein comparing each of the plurality of user profiles with the target profile of the first user associated with the media player device to select the matching user profile comprises, at each peer media player device from the plurality of peer media player devices, comparing a one of the plurality of user profiles associated with a user of the peer media player device and the target user (i.e., Chang, page 3 paragraph [0026]).

Regarding claims 75 and 85, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 71 further comprising editing the playlist at the media player device to further include items played in excess of a threshold rate at the media player device (col. 10 lines 3-6).

Regarding claims 77, 87, and 92, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 61 wherein the media player device is a dedicated media player device (i.e., "an audio device", col. 21 lines 45-49).

10. Claim 72, 82, and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chislenko, in view of Chang and Elliott, US 2005/0165888 A1.

Regarding claims 72, 82, and 91, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 71.

The combination of teachings of Chislenko and Chang does not explicitly teach automatically updating the playlist at the media player device in response to a change made to the playlist by the matching user.

Elliot teaches a technique for data replication and propagation allows synchronization of user interfaces on peer machines in a peer-to-peer network (abstract). Elliot teaches automatically updating the playlist at the media player device in response to a change made to the playlist by the matching user (page 3 paragraph [0031]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teachings of Chislenko and Chang to automatically updating the playlist at the media player device in response to a change made to the playlist by the matching user as taught by Elliot. One would be motivated to do so to enable a change made to the playlist by one user to be quickly reflected in the user interface of another user.

11. Claims 73 and 83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chislenko, in view of Chang and Mercer et al. ("Mercer"), US 2004/0078382 A1.

Regarding claims 73 and 83, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 71.

The combination of teachings of Chislenko and does not explicitly teach filtering the playlist to remove at least one item that is not compatible with the media player device.

Mercer, in the same digital media content field of endeavor, teaches filtering the playlist to remove at least one item that is not compatible with the media player device (page 3 paragraph [036]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teachings of Chislenko and Chang to filter the playlist to remove at least one item that is not compatible with the media player device as taught by Mercer. One would be motivated to so to enable the selected media files to be filtered as a function of a media type associated with the media player.

12. Claims 74 and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chislenko, in view of Shirwadkar et al. ("Shirwadkar"), US 2004/0162830 A1.

Regarding claims 74 and 84, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 71.

The combination of teachings of Chislenko and Chang does not explicitly teach filtering the playlist to remove at least one item that is not compatible with a location of the media player device.

Shirwadkar teaches filtering the playlist to remove at least one item that is not compatible with a location of the media player device (page 4 paragraph [0050]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teachings of Chislenko and Chang to filter the playlist to remove at least one item that is not compatible with a location of the media player device as taught by Shirwadkar. One would be motivated to do so to provide user with recommendations that are best matching with user profile in a current location of the device.

13. Claims 76 and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chislenko, in view of Chang and Sakuma et al. ("Sakuma"), US 2006/0256669.

Regarding claims 76 and 86, Chislenko teaches the method of claim 71.

The combination of teachings of Chislenko and Chang does not explicitly teach editing the playlist at the media player device to remove items played less than a threshold rate at the media player device.

Sakuma teaches editing the playlist at the media player device to remove items played less than a threshold rate at the media player device (paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teachings of Chislenko and Chang to edit the playlist at the media player device to remove items played less than a threshold rate at the media player device as taught by Sakuma. One would be motivated to do so to enable items that do not presumably match the user's preferences to be deleted from the device.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 61-64, 66-70, 72-92 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OANH DUONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3983. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 9:30PM - 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Oanh Duong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2455